AND WHEN I'M DEAD DON'T BURY ME AT ALL, JUST PICKLE MY BONES IN ALCOHOL, AN AMPHORA OF WINE AT MY HEAD AND FEET, AND THEN I'M SURE MY BONES WILL KEEP...

HIC!... DE MORTIS NIL NISI BONUM!

KISS ME GOODNIGHT, CENTURION... CENTURION, BE A MATER TO ME...

SHUT UP, TREMENSPERIOUS, YOU'LL BRING THE PATROL DOWN ON US!

PATROL? HUH! WHAT'SH THE PATROL MATTER? WE'RE FINISHED WITH PATROLSH!

NOT QUITE, WE AREN'T, SO CALM DOWN!

HOW LONG HAVE YOU DONE IN THE ARMY?

TWENTY YEARS, SAME AS EVERYONE ELSE, AND TOMORROW JULIUS CAESAR'S GIVING US OUR HONEST MISSIO!* WITH A FREE GIFT OF A LIT OF LAND TOO!

JULIUS CAESAR! HUH! WANT TO KNOW WHAT I THINK OF JULIUS CAESAR?

* DEMOB
SOON AFTERWARDS...

HOW LONG HAVE YOU DONE THEN, SON?

TWO YEARS.

ONLY EIGHTEEN MORE TO GO, SON.
THE ENDS IN SIGHT!

YES, THIS TIME XVIII YEARS WHERE SHALL I BE? NOT IN THE ROMAN INFANTRY?

OLD ROMAN ARMY SONG, AN ADAPTATION OF WHICH IS STILL CURRENT IN ENGLISH SCHOOLS TODAY.

NEXT MORNING, IN JULIUS CAESAR'S PALACE...

WELL, CENTURION, SO SOME OF OUR VETERANS GET THEIR HONESTA MISSION TODAY, ALL MEN WITH GOOD CONDUCT RECORDS, I HOPE?

YES, THEY'VE DONE FINE, O JULIUS CAESAR... BARRING ONE OLD SOAK WHO HASN'T BEEN HERE IN TWENTY YEARS.

IN FACT HE'S IN THE GLASS HOUSE THIS VERY MOMENT. HE WAS USING INSULTING LANGUAGE ABOUT YOU LAST NIGHT.

INSULTING LANGUAGE, EH? WELL, I'VE GOT AN IDEA... WE'LL HAVE A SPOT OF FUN WITH HIM!

GET HIM OUT OF PRISON AND HAVE HIM LINED UP FOR THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY ALONG WITH THE REST.

YOU'RE GOING TO THROW HIM TO THE LIONS, O CAESAR?

WORSE! I'M GOING TO GIVE HIM A PRESENT!

SOME HOURS LATER...

ATTEN-SHUN!
LEGIO EXPEDITA!

Hey, you! Legion Expedita!

Legionaries, you have completed your twenty years' military service. With this little formality behind you, your whole life lies before you...

You have served Rome well, and I am going to reward you by giving you plots of land in our colonies...

Here are your title deeds to land at Nemausus...

You have been allotted land near Arelatum...

And it's Aqae Sextiae for you...

This is the man. I'd never have guessed...

I've got something special for you... I'm giving you a little village by the seaside in Armorica...

... a little Gaulish village surrounded by fortified Roman camps.

You are?
AVE, CLAUDIUS!
WE MUST HAVE
A REUNION
SOME TIME AND
CHAT ABOUT THE
GOOD OLD DAYS.
YES, WE'VE HAD
SOME FUN, COME
TO THINK OF IT.
REMEMBER THAT
TIME I LOOKED THE
OPTO STRAIGHT IN
THE EYE AND I SAID
TO HIM, 'QUO NOBIS
AURES AVES?'
AUDITU, I SAID.
WHAT'S THE GOOD
OF A GALLO-ISH
VILLAGE? CAN'T
DRINK A GALLO-ISH
VILLAGE, CAN I?
HEY, EGGANLETTUS!
WANT TO BUY A
VILLAGE?
NO THANKS, I'VE
GOT A PLOT OF LAND
NEAR NICAEA, IF I'M
GOING TO GROW
SALAD STUFF.

HAVE A NICE TIME IN ARMORICA,
TREMENSPELIRIUS! AVE!

SOME DAYS LATER, IN AN INN AT
ARANDOS, ON ROMAN ROAD VII.

WINE!
MORE WINE,
BY MERCURY!

YOU'VE HAD QUITE
ENOUGH, AND IT'S
CLOSING TIME, COME
ON; PAY UP!

PAY?.....

HAHAHAHA!

I CAN'T PAY LANDLORD,
I HAVEN'T GOT ANY
MONEY!

WHAT?

NO, BUT LISTEN HERE!
I HAVEN'T A SESTERTIUS TO
MY NAME, BUT I'M RICH!
GIVE ME SOME WINE AND
I'LL GIVE YOU A WHOLE
VILLAGE!

THAT'S RIGHT, A VILLAGE!
A LOVELY SEASIDE VILLAGE
IN ARMORICA!

SEE THIS TABLET BEARING
JULIUS CAESAR'S
OWN SEAL?
You mean you'd give me this village, just for the price of a meal and a little wine?

I must ask my wife.

Don't forget the wine on your way back.

... and look at this! An official document! With Julius Caesar's own seal! I've always dreamt of owning land...

I must admit, it's tempting... the climate here doesn't really suit me, seaside air is so bracing, and what's more, an inn is no fit place to bring up a young girl...

Well, Angina?

Specially as our little influenza was never happy about leaving Lutetia to come here.

We could sell this inn...

As it happens... the little village which has changed hands for a hunk of bread and a few mugs of wine...

It's a deal!

Fill it up!

... is this village!
... AND A CHIEF WHO IS EASY-GOING, THOUGH INCLINED TO STAND ON CEREMONY...

BUT DIDN'T I FORBID YOU TO SNEEZE WHEN CARRYING ME?

BLESSED YOU, MY BOY...

COME IN IT A BIT HEAVY... ONE OF THESE DAYS I'LL LEAVE HIM FLAT!

OFF WE GO!

SSH!

HERE'S OUR VILLAGE!
IT SEEMS TO BE INHABITED...
THERE'S SMOKE RISING FROM THE CHIMNEYS...

HAH! WE'LL JUST TELL THE VILLAGERS TO LEAVE, AND THAT WILL BE THAT!

WHEN THEY SEE JULIUS CAESAR'S OFFICIAL SEAL THEY'LL GET THE BEATING SEASONED UP ALL RIGHT.

WHY DON'T WE GO BACK TO LUTETIA?
IT'S DEAD BORING IN THE COUNTRY!
Nobody asked your opinion, Zaza!

SORRY ABOUT THAT. I'M TEACHING MY DOG TO RETRIEVE.

YOU GREAT PIGHEADED FOOL, I TOLD YOU THAT MENHIR WAS TOO BIG!

OF COURSE, NOTHING'S EVER QUITE RIGHT FOR MISTER ASTERIX, IS IT?
FIRST MY DOGS TOO SMALL, THEN MY MENHIR'S TOO BIG!

HAH! HEAR THAT? WHOMEVER HEARD OF MENHIRS BEING DANGEROUS?
MUSHROOMS, YES, BUT MENHIRS...
WELL, I ASK YOU!

TH... THEY'RE CRAZY!
ER... DO YOU HAVE SOME SORT OF CHIEF HERE?

YES, WE DO HAVE SOME SORT OF CHIEF... YOU'LL FIND HIM IN THAT HOUSE OVER THERE.

DON'T LEAVE US ALONE AT THE MERCY OF THESE MADMEN!

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT... BUT THEY'RE NOT MAD... JUST A LITTLE RUSTIC, MAYBE...

WOULD YOU KINDLY GO AND GET YOUR CHIEF? I HAVE SOME VERY IMPORTANT NEWS.

RIGHT

SOME VERY IMPORTANT NEWS? LET'S GO AND SEE WHAT'S UP!

I HAVE TO GO OUT, PEDIMENTA PEAR. OH NO, YOU DON'T! THE WATER'S WARM, AND I'LL BE NEEDING THE TUB AFTERWARDS TO DO THE WASHING!

OUR CHIEF VITAL-STATISTIX! JUST A BIT RUSTIC, EH?

SOON AFTERWARDS...
WHO ARE YOU, AND WHAT DO YOU WANT?

MY NAME IS ORTHOPAEDIX, AND I MUST ASK YOU AND YOUR MEN TO LEAVE MY VILLAGE.

WHAT WAS THAT AGAIN?

I SAID THIS VILLAGE IS MINE, AND YOU MUST LEAVE ALL YOU GAULS, WORTHY AS YOU MAY BE. I'M A MAN OF PROPERTY NOW...

THIS PROPERTY, AND HERE ARE THE TITLE DEEDS.

BRING ME THAT TABLET.

RIGHT, CHIEF!

??

I'M A MAN OF PROPERTY NOW...

SEE THAT SIGNATURE?

NO, DOWN HERE!

HMPH? HAHA...

HAHAHAHAHAHA!
JOKING APART, MATE, YOU'VE BEEN HAD!

WHAT ABOUT THIS TABLET? SEE THAT SIGNATURE?

YOU CAN'T GIVE AWAY WHAT ISN'T YOURS, AND JULIUS CAESAR OWNS ALL GAIM... EXCEPT THIS VILLAGE!

GOODBYE, AND GOOD LUCK!

LONG LIVE CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX!

OH YES, YOU AND YOUR BUSINESS ACUMEN! WE WERE PERFECTLY HAPPY IN LUTETIA, ONLY YOU HAD TO GO AND BUY AN INN BECAUSE YOU FANCIED LIVING DOWN SOUTH!

PLEASE... GINA DEAR...

A FAT LOT YOU CARED THAT THE CLIMATE DIDN'T SUIT ME AND IT WAS NO FIT PLACE TO BRING UP INFLUENZA!

AND THEN YOU GO CHUCKING IT ALL UP AGAIN, JUST FOR A WORTHLESS SCRAP OF MARBLE? WHEN I THINK OF MY SISTER WHO MARRIED DITHYRAMBIX...

DITHYRAMBIX IS A FOOL!

HE MAY BE A FOOL, BUT HE'S A RICH FOOL! HE'S MADE GOOD! OH, MY POOR DEAR MOTHER WAS RIGHT ALL ALONG...

COME HERE A MINUTE, ORTHOPAEDIX.
LET'S GO OVER HERE, OUT OF THE WAY...

YOU'VE GOT PROBLEMS, RIGHT?

OH, OF COURSE, I COULD ALWAYS GO BACK TO LIVETIA... BUT IF YOU KNEW MY IN-LAWS...

WELL, YES...
THE THING IS, I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO GO NOW...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME!

FINE! WE HAVEN'T GOT AN INNKEEPER IN THE VILLAGE. THERE'S AN EMPTY HOUSE NEXT DOOR TO UNHYGIENIC THE FISHERMAN. NO ONE WANTS IT BECAUSE OF THE SMELL, BUT JUST FOR THE TIME BEING...

SOON AFTERWARDS...

LISTEN, I WANT TO HELP YOU...
WHAT'S YOUR LINE?

OH, GOOD! SO YOU MANAGED TO STAND UP FOR YOUR RIGHTS AFTER ALL!

WELL... SORT OF... I GOT COMPENSATION.

YOU MEAN YOU HAVE THE SAME SORT OF PROBLEMS... ?

SHH! NOT SO LOUD!

YOU CAN GET DOWN. WE'RE STAYING.

HEY, YOU THERE! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? AREN'T YOU GOING TO HELP ME DOWN?

HANNAH...

YOU... YOU'RE LIGHTER THAN A MENHIR...

YOU'VE REALLY GOT A WAY WITH THE GIRLS, haven't you!

OHHH, I SAY!

LOOK, YOU CAN PUT ME DOWN NOW.
Here we are. The Chief has given us this house for our inn.

What? You mean we've left our nice inn at Arassio just to open another in this wretched village, when the whole place belongs to us anyway?

We'll air the house out... anyway, that's the smell of the sea!

But they don't want to give us the village!

Oh, let's go back to uncle Dithramix in Lattea!

No, no! We shall be very comfortable here, and the air's so bracing.

It stinks of rotten fish!

It's some time since any fish smelling like that saw the sea!

SHE'S almost as light as you, Dogmatix!

New people? What new people?

You know me, I've got nothing against foreigners. Some of my best friends are foreigners, but these particular foreigners aren't from this village.

Well, I have a notion we shan't be bored, everyone's talking about them anyway.

As for that girl, she has the most appalling taste!
HMM... I hope you're not going in for grills and snacks and all that. I can't stand the smell of frying.

Don't worry, mate. It's opening night tonight, and you're invited. The whole village is invited.

That evening...

Oh, come on, do! You're handsome enough as you are.

Aren't you coming, Geriatrix?

No! I don't mind foreigners when they stay in their own parts, but if they come to our place I don't fancy going to their place!

Harry up, Geriatrix! Dear, we'll be late!

Come in, all!
Impedimenta, meet our new innkeeper, Orthopaedix.

And this is my wife Angina.

I consider that remark most impertinent, coming from a foreigner! Bacteria, fetch me our stock!

We were obliged to take what offered, Mrs. Vitalstatistik. Dare say your place smells better.

Naturally, Mrs. Orthopaedix. After all, I'm the chief's wife!

Pleased to meet you.

Nice little place you have here, Mrs. Orthopaedix. What a pity about the smell of fish.

Fish!

It doesn't half smell of fish, too!

What chief's wife, Mrs. Vitalstatistik? This village belongs to my husband.

Angina, dear, come and help me serve our guests.

Oh, go it smells of fish, eh?

No carping, friends! This one's on the house, mussel in!
COMES THE DAWN...

DO STOP CRYING, MUMMY. ALL OUR GUESTS HAVE GONE.

BUT... I THOUGHT AFTER LAST NIGHT'S PUNCH-UP...

PUNCH-UP? WHAT PUNCH-UP? IT'S THAT HORRIBLE WOMAN! SHE HUMILIATED ME! HER HOUSE IS OUR HOUSE!

YOU WERE RIGHT, GINA DEAR, THEY ARE CRAZY! WE'RE LEAVING!

I KNOW WHAT... WE'LL GO BACK TO LUTETIA!

OVER MY DEAD BODY! WE'RE STAYING HERE!

AND THIS VILLAGE IS OUR VILLAGE! WE'VE GOT TO TURN THEM OUT OF HERE!

TURN OUT THE CHIEF? BUT I RATHER LIKE HIM...
We've come to help you clear up the mess... our friends mean well, you know. They're just a bit high-spirited, that's all...

And I've brought you a boar for breakfast.

I don't think this is quite the moment...

Oh yes it is! We shan't forget your kind gesture...

Especially as my husband Orthopaedix intends to become chief of this village.

What? Chief of this village? How about me?

Our laws clearly state that anyone at all has the right to stand for election. If he gets a majority vote, he takes over from the old chief.

I'm going to fling him out of the village, I am!

Oh, let him make a fool of himself. When he finds no one wants him for chief he'll leave, along with that fat wife of his!

We'll soon see who's chief: her or me!

Orthopaedix!

Yes?

So you're thinking of taking over from me as chief?

Eh... what do you mean, why don't I shut up? This is man's work!

Orthopaedix! Are you going to let her speak to me like that?

Eh... well... no.

The festival of the god Lug is in fifteen days' time! If your fool of a husband gets more votes than mine then, and only then, he becomes chief of our village!

Right!
YOU WANTED ME, VITALSTATISTIX?

THAT’S RIGHT, CACOFONIX... I’VE GOT A LITTLE JOB FOR YOU....

IT’S NOT THAT I DOUBT THEIR LOYALTY, EXACTLY, BUT I’D LIKE YOU TO SOUND OUT OUR FRIENDS: SEE IF THEY WANT A CHANGE OF CHIEF.

WANT?

GERIATRIX IS BACKING YOU. HE SAYS HE’S GOT NOTHING AGAINST FOREIGNERS BUT THEY DON’T BELONG HERE. THE OTHERS DON’T MIND ONE WAY OR THE OTHER, SO LONG AS THEY STILL GET PLENTY OF BOARS AND ROMANS...

LATER...

ST&P/I’M ALL RIGHT, OVERCOME ALL MY ORTHOMEOX. THIS IS A PROTEST, I CAN HAVE THE MARCH/ BEnEFIT OF MY _SONG_ MAYBE HE’LL APPRECIATE IT!!!

FULL MATATIX THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO SOUND HIM OUT IN SONG SO HE KNOCKED ME OUT FIRST.

FULL/ AUTOMATIX?

YOU HAVEN’T VOICED YOUR OWN OPINION YET...?

HIH! YOU DON’T LIKE MY VOICE ANY MORE THAN THE REST OF THEM!

WHAT, ME?

I SIMPLY LOVE YOUR VOICE!

YOU DO? LISTEN TO THIS NEW PROTEST SONG I’VE JUST COMPOSED, THEN...!

WE SHALL OVERCOME...
WE SHALL OVERCOME...

STOP! I’M OVERCOME ALREADY! ORTHOPAEDIX THIS IS A PROTEST... CAN HAVE THE MARCH! ALL RIGHT, BENEFIT OF MY SONG? MAYHE HE’LL APPRECIATE IT!!!

PEDIMENTA, IF I FEEL WE MAY HAVE MADE A MISTAKE... THAT’S ONE PROTEST VOTE ALREADY!

WHY NOT ADDRESS YOUR PEOPLE? ROUSE THEM UP A BIT?
MY FRIENDS! CERTAIN PERSONS HAVE DARED TO SUGGEST A CHANGE OF CHIEF!! I KNOW YOU WILL THINK THIS AS FUNNY AS I DO...

OH, FOR TOUTATIS’ SAKE! THIS IS THE END! ANYONE WHO ISN’T HAPPY ABOUT MY POSITION CAN JUST PUSH OFF!
UNHYGIENIX

OH, WHAT AN ELEGANT OUTFIT BACTERIA!

EH?

IT'S ONLY THE APRON I WEAR FOR GETTING THE FISH...

IT SUITS YOU EVER SO WELL...

ER... WANT TO BUY ANY FISH?

OH YES! WE JUST LOVE FISH! I'LL TAKE A DOZEN, PLEASE.

A DOZEN?

ANY YOU LIKE. THEY ALL LOOK DELICIOUS.

YOU KNOW, THAT WOMAN'S REALLY VERY NICE.

YES, BUT I HOPE SHE ISN'T GOING TO FRY THOSE FISH. I CAN'T STAND THE SMELL OF FRYING!

I THINK WE'VE GOT A COUPLE MORE SUPPORTERS!

YOU KNOW, GINA, I'M NOT TOO SURE WHAT WE'VE LET OURSELVES IN FOR... YOU DON'T THINK WE OUGHT TO DROP THE IDEA?

CERTAINLY NOT! AND YOU CAN GO AND BURY THESE TWELVE FISH BEHIND THE HOUSE. I CAN HARDLY BREATHE IN HERE!

RIGHT.

INFLUENZA, DARLING. I THINK THAT GREAT FAT MAN WITH THE MENHIR HAS A SOFT SPOT FOR YOU... YOU SHOULD HAVE A WORD WITH HIM.
YOU MEAN THE ONE CALLED OBEIX? BUT WHAT FOR?

TO HELP YOUR FATHER GET ELECTED CHIEF OF THIS VILLAGE, OF COURSE!

OH, MUMMY! DAD IS RIGHT. SO LET'S GO BACK TO LUTETIA!

BUT ZAZA, IF YOUR FATHER IS ELECTED CHIEF YOU'LL HAVE PLENTY OF TRIPS TO LUTETIA TO BUY DRESSES AND JEWELLERY!

OF COURSE! A CHEF'S DAUGHTER MUST BE DRESSED LIKE A PRINCESS!

WHAT FOR?

SOON AFTERWARDS.

YEAH, OBELIX!

HELLO, OBELIX... I CAN CALL YOU OBELIX, CAN'T I? I'M INFLUENZA, OR ZAZA IF YOU'D RATHER...

ZAZA?

HELLO, OBELIX... I CAN CALL YOU OBELIX, CAN'T I? I'M INFLUENZA, OR ZAZA IF YOU'D RATHER...

ZAZA?

HELLO, OBELIX... I CAN CALL YOU OBELIX, CAN'T I? I'M INFLUENZA, OR ZAZA IF YOU'D RATHER...

ZAZA?

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ZAZA?

HELLO, OBELIX... I CAN CALL YOU OBELIX, CAN'T I? I'M INFLUENZA, OR ZAZA IF YOU'D RATHER...

ZAZA?

HELLO, OBELIX... I CAN CALL YOU OBELIX, CAN'T I? I'M INFLUENZA, OR ZAZA IF YOU'D RATHER...

ZAZA?
HERE'S ANOTHER!

OH, THANKS, OBELEX. I THINK THAT'S ENOUGH DON'T YOU? WHY DON'T WE HAVE A LITTLE TALK?

WAIT! THERE ARE STILL A FEW MORE OVER THERE?

SNIFF! SNIFF!

YOU WANTED TO TALK TO ME?

YES, DO SIT DOWN... HERE, BESIDE ME.

DO LIKE THIS VILLAGE AND THIS FOREST OBELEX...

...BUT IF DADDY DOESN'T GET ELECTED CHIEF WE'LL HAVE TO GO BACK TO LUTETIA... ISN'T THAT SAD?

HALF A MINUTE! THERE'S SOMETHING MOVING OVER THERE!

IT WAS A ROMAN THIS TIME. YOU DO SOMETIMES GET THEM IN THE SUMMER MONTHS... THESE ROMANS ARE CRAZY!
WELL, HOW DID IT GO?
OH, HE'S NOT INTERESTED IN ANYTHING EXCEPT BOARS AND ROMANS, BUT I DID TALK TO HIM.

WHAT ABOUT?
YOUR DAUGHTER IS CANVASSING FOR YOU. MEANWHILE, YOU CAN GO AND BURY THAT LOAD OF TROTTERS BEHIND THE HOUSE, AND TAKE THE HELMET TOO!

IF ANYONE EVER DECIDES TO GO DIGGING UP THE PAST BEHIND THIS HOUSE, HE'LL HAVE A FEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS ON HIS HANDS!

MEANWHILE...
HEY, ASTERIX, CAN WE COME TO DINNER? I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO GET ANY BOARS FOR US.

I'M WORRIED, OBEIX... THERE'S A LOT OF BAD FEELING IN THE VILLAGE. I DON'T WONDER IF IT MIGHT NOT BE BETTER FOR THE ORTHOPAEDIX FAMILY TO GO...

WELL, I DISAGREE WITH YOU ENTIRELY!

WHY?
BECAUSE, EVERYONE'S ARGUING, OF COURSE, AND WE MIGHT REJECT THAT WE'RE STILL ENTIRELY SURROUNDED BY ROMANS, AND...

? ??
I'll go and get the spade.

Never mind him, he's only joking... oh, you really shouldn't have!

That's all right, I'm not short of fish. Last summer's catch was very good... better than business. They're mad on boars in this place.

Fish is better than meat. Orthopaedix will make it compulsory to eat fish on Fridays.

I like meat, myself. Of course! Orthopaedix will make it compulsory to eat meat on Fridays too, and vice versa.

A goat's milk, please!

And another!

If he's trying to drown his sorrows in goat's milk, he must have had a quarrel with Asterix... a quarrel with Asterix...?
... and I saw Cacofonix go into that foreign inn, not to mention unhygienic and Obelix...

Obelix?!

Oh, what does it matter? Why not let orthopaedics be chief, if he's so keen on the idea?

Over my dead body!

Give in to that... that usurper? Never!

It's just that things aren't going too well for the gang. Look, even Obelix...

And you know, Asterix may be right: all we really want is a quiet life bashing up Romans and hunting boar in the forest with our friends...

You're just giving in because you're soft! But we've got a secret weapon: our Druid's magic potion. Let's have a swig of magic potion and fling them out!

Nothing doing! The magic potion may be used only in self-defence, not domestic disputes!

You're all softies! Well, I know what to do about that!

Getafix... would you really refuse me a drop of magic potion?

Yes, I really would... coming, Asterix?

Et tu, Asterix? Then fall, Vitalstatistix!
MY FRIENDS, THESE ARE TROUBLED TIMES!...

FRIENDS, I OFFER MYSELF FOR ELECTION! AS YOUR CHIEF, I SHALL BE ENERGETIC!! TOUGH! INFLEXI...

WHAT DO WE SEE CONFRONTING US? ON THE ONE HAND, FOREIGNERS TRYING TO TAKE US OVER! ON THE OTHER, A WEAK, APATHETIC CHIEF!

THINGS ARE GETTING OUT OF HAND. WHAT NEXT, I WONDER?

LISTEN, DO YOU KNOW ANYONE HERE ABOUTS WHO USED TO KEEP AN INN AT ARAMUS? ORTHOPAEDIX? YES, HE'S LANDLORD OF THE PUB OVER THERE.

THANKS.
'SRIGHT. TREMENDOUS LURUS!
AT YOUR SERVICE!

WH... WHAT DO YOU WANT?

A DRINK, FOR A START!

WE ONLY HAVE GOAT'S MILK.

BANG!

AH, SO THAT'S WHY YOU LOOK SO SLOUM...
BUT I CAN CHANGE ALL THAT.

OH? AND HOW MAY I ASK?

WELL, I HAVEN'T HAD MUCH LUCK SINCE WE LAST MET... I'VE TRIED ALL SORTS OF JOBS... I EVEN SIGNED ON AS A PIRATE, ONLY UNFORTUNATELY THE PIRATE SHIP GOT SUNK...

NOW I WANT MY VILLAGE BACK, CAESAR GAVE IT TO ME!

BUT YOU SOLD IT TO ME!

WE AREN'T ALLOWED TO SELL CAESAR'S GIFTS OF LAND.

ORTHOPAEDIX IS GOING TO BE CHIEF OF THIS VILLAGE AND HE SAYS CLEAR OFF!

ER... YES, THAT'S RIGHT... CLEAR OFF!

LOOK HERE, YOU... SEE THIS LITTLE MEMENTO OF MY ARMY SERVICE!

EEEK!
WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON?

PUSH OFF, MIDGET!

WELL, DON'T SAY I DIDN'T WARN YOU / I'VE SERVED IN THE FLAMEN'S GUARD?

FLAMING GUARD, EH? I'M OFF TO GET HELP!

NO! IT'LL BE ALL OVER THE VILLAGE LIKE WILDFIRE / ACT WITH DISDAIN!

I AM MORE AN ANTIQUE ROMAN THAN A DANE...

* FLAMEN: HIGH-RANKING ROMAN PRIEST

YOU'RE FAT, AND SCANT OF BREATH... THIS WILL MELT A BIT OF YOUR TOO, TOO SOUL FLESH! GIVE US THE FOILS; COME ON!

A HIT, A VERY PALPABLE HIT!

THE REST IS SILENCE... 'NUFF ZED!

R! ?

WHAT A MAN!

FOILED AGAIN! ROGUES AND PEASANT SLAVES, THE LOT OF YOU! BUT I'LL BE BACK. THERE ARE ROMAN CAMPS AROUND HERE CHOCK-FULL OF LEGIONARIES READY TO STAND UP FOR AN OLD SOLDIER'S RIGHTS!
WHAT RIGHTS DID HE MEAN?

WELL...

OH, IT WAS NOTHING! JUST A COMMON DRUNK. YOU GET THEM IN AN INN NOW AND THEN... THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, ASTERIX.

Z FOR ZAZA... HE MADE A REAL HIT WITH ME!

YOU DON'T THINK THAT LEGIONARY IS GOING TO MAKE TROUBLE, DO YOU? WE OUGHT TO WARN VITALSTATIS...

HAAH! WHO'S GOING TO LISTEN TO THAT GREAT BLOATED WINE SKIN OF A MAN?

YOU'D BETTER GO AND BURY THIS SWORD BEHIND THE HOUSE... WE DON'T WANT ANYONE KNOWING THAT ROMAN WAS HERE. LET'S HOPE ASTERIX KEEPS QUIET.

BUT LATER, AT THE GATES OF THE FORTIFIED ROMAN CAMP OF LAUPHANUM...

AN OLD SOLDIER OF THE ROMAN LEGIONS. I'D LIKE TO SEE THE COMMANDING OFFICER.

OPTIO!

THAT'S THE TROUBLE! I WANT A WORD WITH THE C.O.

THAT'S RIGHT!

I JUST COULDN'T TAKE IT AT NICAEA: PLANTING LETTUCES, WATERING LETTUCES, PICKING LETTUCES... TOO MUCH LIKE WORK. SO I SIGNED ON FOR ANOTHER 20 YEARS AND GOT MY PROMOTION. HOW ABOUT YOU? HOW'S YOUR VILLAGE?
AND, CENTURION!
TONSILLITIS! THERE'S AN OLD SOLDIER HERE TO SEE YOU!
SEND HIM IN!
BONG!

WHAT? THE VILLAGE FULL OF MADMEN? CAESAR GAVE YOU THAT VILLAGE FULL OF MADMEN?!

THOSE GAULS ARE TERRIBLE! THEY HAVE PHOIDS WHO GIVE THEM MAGIC POTIONS WHICH MAKE THEM INVINCIBLE!

YOU'D BETTER FORGET THE WHOLE THING... WHY NOT RE-ENLIST LIKE THIS OTHER IDIO... LIKE YOUR FRIEND HERE?

NO! I WANT MY VILLAGE!

CAESAR WOULDN'T LIKE TO THINK OF GAULS GETTING THE BENEFIT OF THE GIFTS HE GIVES HIS OLD SOLDIERS.

THAT'S RIGHT. WHEN I TELL HIM, HE WON'T LIKE IT ONE LITTLE BIT!

OH, ALL RIGHT, WE'LL GET READY... LUCKILY I'VE JUST GOT SOME NEW SECRET WEAPONS IN.
THANKS, CENTURION!

OH, AND BY THE WAY, OPEO...

OH, WHAT, OPEO?

YOU'RE NOT AN OPTIO ANY MORE, YOU'RE DENOTTED TO LEGIONARY, SECOND CLASS.
ARE YOU STILL CROSS WITH ME, OBELIX?

SORRY, ASTERIX! I SOMETIMES FORGET I FELL INTO THE MAGIC POTION WHEN I WAS A BABY!

YOU'VE GOT TO ADMIT IT, THESE GAULS ARE CRAZY!

THAT'S JUST WHY I WANTED A WORD WITH YOU... I THINK THERE'S SOMETHING SERIOUS AFOOT...

LISTEN, YESTERDAY EVENING I WENT INTO THE INN. I'D HEARD SOMEONE SCREECH, AND I...

YOU MEAN YOU WENT TO ZARA'S PLACE?
LISTEN HERE! WHILE EVERY FOOL IN THE VILLAGE IS TRYING TO GET ELECTED CHIEF, THERE'S SOMETHING REALLY SERIOUS GOING ON! THERE'S THIS ROMAN ABOUT, AND HE'S...

ASTERIX, I JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU YOU WERE GREAT YESTERDAY! ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS!

OH, ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS, WERE YOU?

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT... WHAT I WANTED TO SAY WAS...

HUUH! ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS PEOPLE DON'T HAVE TO EXPLAIN ANYTHING, DO THEY?

EXPLAIN?

YOU LISTEN HERE! VOTE FOR ME!
I'm off to warn Vitalstatix. After all, he's still our chief!

Oh, you're back. Are you, Asterix? I thought you fancied a change of chief?

Never mind all that now... Where is our chief?

You'll find him with your friend the Druid.

Here are the dozen annuls you ordered.

At last! My husband and I just love metalwork!

No, Vitalstatix! Magic potion for your supporters is quite out of the question, or magic potion for anyone, come to that.

No more magic potion, so there!

SLAM!

Oh, leave me alone, can't you?

VITALSTATIX...

If you've got anything to say, go and say it to your friend the Druid!

But...

No more potion for anyone! So go away!
OH, WELL, IF NO ONE WANTS TO LISTEN TO ME I'LL JUST HAVE TO GO AND SEE WHAT'S UP IN THE ROMAN CAMPS FOR MYSELF.

WHAT THE... ??? IT'S THE SKY FALLING ON OUR HEADS AT LAST!

WHOOOOSH

IT'S COMING FROM THE CAMP OF LAMPANUM!

OH!
IF I GO UP TO
THE TOP OF THAT
tower, I'll be able
to see everything
that's going on in
THe Camp... Let's
hope the tower
isn't guarded!

HUH! THESE NEW WEAPONS WILL MAKE MINCEMEAT
OF THEM! A MOBILE ASSAULT TOWER TO BESIEGE THE ENEMY,
CATAPULTS, BAUSTAS, BATTERING RAMS...

CATAPULTS!

GET THAT ASSAULT
tower inside the
Camp!

TWENTY YEARS IN THE ARMY AND I'LL ONLY
HAVE BEEN AN OPTIO FOR FOUR DAYS, AND ALL
BECAUSE OF YOU! AND WE'RE GOING TO GET
OURSELVES MASSACRED BY
YOUR WRETCHED VILLAGE...
MY MATES TOLD ME: IT'S
FULL OF DANGEROUS
MARSHMEN.

OH, BY GUTATS!
AND I HAVEN'T EVEN
GOT A SPIT OF
MAGIC POTION
ON ME!
CEN... CEN...
CEN-TUROOOON!

THERE'S SOMEONE UP ON TOP OF THAT ASSAULT TOWER! IT LOOKS LIKE A GAUL! WE'RE BEING ASSAULTED!

RAISE THE ALARM!

CALM DOWN! WE'VE GOT ENOUGH PROVISIONS TO HOLD OUT FOR A LONG, LONG SIEGE...

COME DOWN FROM THERE, WHOEVER YOU ARE!

IF YOU SAY SO.

I KNOW HIM! HE'S ONE OF THOSE GAULS WHO KEEP KNOCKING BACK THE MAGIC POTION!

YOU FATHEAD, HE'S FULL OF MAGIC POTION!

I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF THIS CAMP BEFORE THEY NOTICE ANYTHING FUNNY...

LOOK... LOOK, HE'S RUNNING! AND IF HE'S RUNNING FOR IT, THAT MEANS HE ISN'T FULL OF MAGIC POTION AFTER ALL!

CHAAAARGE!
He’s cornered! We’ve got him!

We’ve literally slung him out!

Whoosh...

Yes, and it looks as if they’ve run out of magic potion! By Jupiter, there’s a great victory ahead of us! Julius Caesar won’t half be pleased!

Where are you off to?

Well, I haven’t finished sweeping the barracks yard yet.

Sweeping the barracks yard? Since when was that a job for an optio?

First stones, then people... there’s no living in this forest any more!

That’s right! How about ecology, eh? No respect for the environment!
I'VE GOT TO WARN THEM!

WHAT'S UP NOW?

VITALSTATISTIX AND ORTHOPAEDIX HAVE DECIDED TO HAVE A FACE-TO-FACE CONFRONTATION, A PUBLIC DEBATE!

LISTEN, WILL YOU!? SSH! SSH! SSSH!

I MUST ASK YOU NOT TO EXCEED YOUR ALLOWED TIME FOR SPEAKING.

BEFORE WE START, I'D LIKE TO BE SURE THAT OUR IMPRISONER IS REALLY IMPARTIAL...

YOUR TIME'S UP!
WILL YOU JUST LISTEN TO ME? THE ROMANS...

SILENCE!

OH, FOR GOODNESS SAKE!

YOU HAVE BEEN THE CHIEF OF THIS VILLAGE FOR A LONG TIME. NOW, WHAT EXACTLY HAVE YOU DONE? HAVE THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF YOUR PEOPLE BEEN REALIZED? HAS ANY NEW INDUSTRY BEEN CREATED?

SHUT UP!

YOU ASK WHAT I HAVE DONE FOR INDUSTRY? I HAVE HERE SOME STATISTICS... THIS YEAR WE HAVE SOLD XII ANVILS, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF C% ON THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

SIT DOWN!

A HIT. A VERY PALPABLE HIT!

AND HOW ABOUT BUSINESS? BUSINESS IS ROTTEN! TAKE THE FISH TRADE, FOR INSTANCE...

A LITTLE DIGNITY, IF YOU PLEASE!

AND NOW ABOUT BUSINESS? BUSINESS IS ROTTEN! TAKE THE FISH TRADE, FOR INSTANCE...

EVERYONE!

YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT I THINK OF YOUR FISH?

OH, LET’S BE SERIOUS!

HEAR! HEAR!

YOU CAN MAKE STATISTICS PROVE ANYTHING YOU LIKE!

AND HOW ABOUT BUSINESS? BUSINESS IS ROTTEN! TAKE THE FISH TRADE, FOR INSTANCE...

OH, CHICK IT! PEPPERMINTS! DON’T LETS CAST THE FIRST STONE!

MADAM, YOU GO TOO FAR!

YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT I THINK OF YOUR FISH?

OH, LET’S BE SERIOUS!

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MADAM, YOU GO TOO FAR!

YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT I THINK OF YOUR FISH?
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU! THE ROMANS ARE ATTACKING US WITH THEIR NEW WEAPONS!

PLAFF! PROТCH!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

LIKE ANTS! THEY'RE RUNNING LIKE ANTS!... TREMENDOUS, I SHALL OWE THE FINEST VICTORY OF MY ENTIRE CAREER TO YOU!

GETAFIX! WE NEED SOME MAGIC POTION!

I SAID NO!

IT'S ALL MY FAULT! I OUGHT TO HAVE WARNED YOU!

LET ME GO! I WANT TO GO AND TALK TO THE ROMANS!

LET THEM SLAUGHTER ME! IT SERVES ME RIGHT! IT'S ALL MY FAULT!

GETAFIX! MAGIC POTION, PLEASE! NOT FOR ME, FOR ORTHOPAEDIX!

NO! THEY'LL SLAUGHTER YOU!
Asterix, try to keep the Romans happy while I cook something up...

Shall we get them, Obelix?

Let's play them at their own game!

Woof! Woof!

Craaash!

Hello, have they got engines of war too? We'll have to do something about that...

Break down the gate with the battering ram!

No, Dogmatix! Don't fetch that menhir!

Heel, Dogmatix!

Craaash

Bong!
DOGMATIX! YOOHOO!

MEANWHILE...

IT'S READY, LADS!

AND...

REVERSE, YOU FOOL! REVERSE!

DOGMATIX! HERE!

BUT WE KEEP TELLING YOU HE ISN'T HERE!

HEY, THERE'S SOME OF THEM UP ON THAT TOWER. SHALL WE GO UP?

NO, LET'S GET THEM DOWN!

LET ME DOWN! I TELL YOU, LET ME DOOOOWWN!
DON'T HURT ME! I'M A CIVILIEN! IF YOU WANT TO FIGHT, GO AND FIGHT THE SOLDIERS! FIGHT MY FRIEND OVER THERE ... HE RE-ENLISTED!

I'M NOT GOING TO HURT YOU, FAR FROM IT. I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU BACK YOUR PROPERTY ...

Caesar's Gift!

SO NOW ALL YOU'VE GOT TO DO IS DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX AND HIS MEN!

HEY, WAIT A MINUTE! YOU WOULDN'T DO A THING LIKE THAT TO AN OLD FRIEND, WOULD YOU?

COME ON, LET'S GO HOME!

SOON AFTERWARDS ...

RIGHT, LEGIONARY EGGANLETUS, JUST SWEET THIS LOT UP, AND WE WILL NOT REFER TO IT AGAIN!
I think you'll make the village a really good chief...

But I don't want to be chief at all!

Anyway, I don't think this peaceful country life suits me... I'm a Lutetian born and bred, after all!

But orthopaedix...

Silence! I said we're going back to Lutetia! That was what you wanted wasn't it?

Well then, let's have a party!

Come along, Angina, I'll show you our local recipe for boar.

Down south where we lived they add a lot of herbs... I brought some with me, they really do bring out the flavour.

You like Lutetia, do you, Angina?

Oh yes, impedimenta, and my sister lives there too.

Fancy that! I've got a brother in Lutetia, my dear!

Oh, you really must give me his address, my dear!

Vote for me!

What about me, then?

Oh, bother!
IN FACT, EVERYONE IS FRIENDS AGAIN.
UNDER THE STARRY SKY, ALL PARTIES ARE RE-UNITED AROUND THE TABLE.
ALL PARTIES... FOR WE MUST NOT FORGET THAT THIS HAPPENED VERY LONG AGO, ABOUT 50 BC, AND IN THOSE DAYS SUCH MATTERS WERE NOT SO VERY IMPORTANT...